

Food Situation in City—Scarcity of Fuel

Hoover, "I wish to have considered as the first signal in a campaign to influence the retailer. If publicity of conditions does not help, then it may be necessary for the government to ask for power to regulate the retail situation."

With respect to bread prices, Mr. Hoover said the administration would attempt to standardize materials and loaf sizes as soon as a report from the Trade Commission on bread conditions is received, but the government has no authority to fix the price of a loaf of bread. The Food Administrator in this connection called attention to the fact that Great Britain regulates retail costs, and also to the fact that both Great Britain and France are subsidizing flour.

"But what kind of flour is it?" he asked. "It has come in from Italy, he said, and all sorts of inferior ingredients. Great Britain and France are eating war bread."

"We do not want to put the United States on a war bread diet if we can help it, and I think we can help it."

Mr. Hoover issued a formal statement on the food conditions in extension of his call, calling upon the farmer as well as the retailer to come to the front.

Corner Now Turned

The food administrator's statement follows: "The food administration considers that, subject to cooperation from the farmers and the retailers, the corner has now been turned in the price of wheat and the essential commodities should, now after another, continue to show reductions between now and the end of the year."

"The food administration has no control over either the grower or his organizations, nor of the great majority of retailers. The foundations have been laid for regulation of the intermediate trades, and where these regulations have come into force and the trades are cooperating finely, considerable results are evident in the wholesale prices."

"The current prices at which flour is being sold at the mill door in this city, subject to the local and freight charges on wheat, Toledo showing the lowest prices, at \$10 for first patent, and \$9.70 for second patent, the highest being Buffalo, at \$10.70 for first patent, and \$10.50 for second patent, Minneapolis being \$10.60 for first patent, and \$10.46 for second patent. This shows a large reduction under August prices."

"The regulation of the distribution of wheat and the manufacture of flour were put into force the middle of September. The average retail price on first patents in 26 cities on October 13 was \$13.77, or from \$11.50 to \$2 per barrel higher than in August. The price being made by the millers. In other words, the retail price has not wholly responded to the reductions made by the millers."

"The bean harvest this year is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at approximately 7,000,000 bushels in excess of last year, or nearly double last year, and the growers' abundant supply in prominent bean producing states is holding beans for from 13 1/2 to 15 cents a bushel, as against an average price realized of 10 cents a bushel last year."

"There has been 100 per cent increase in the Manchurian bean crop, and it is now estimated at 2,000,000 tons. Owing to shipping shortages, practically all of these beans will flow into the American market from December on much below the prices now being demanded for American beans."

"The corn harvest this year is 600,000,000 to 700,000,000 bushels over last year, and will be generally available about the end of November. The price of corn rose to \$2.30 per bushel in July, and now stands at \$1.90 per bushel in Chicago. Now corn is quoted in Chicago at \$1.13 per bushel for December, and indicates nearly a 40 per cent decrease in the price of cornmeal when the new corn is generally available."

Meat and Dairy Costs Lower

"The very large corn supplies from the new harvest, together with the larger supplies of barley, velvet beans, cottonseed, peanut and soy bean meal, all promise much cheaper cattle, hog and poultry feed, and will enable the production of beef, pork, poultry and dairy products at much lower levels of cost to the farmer than to-day, and his earnings can be maintained with lower prices of products. The packing, cold storage and other manufacturing and wholesale distributors in these trades are under pressure of regulation."

"Beef already shows some tendency toward reduction in wholesale prices, but these have not been so far reflected in the prices quoted by the retailer. The price of beef at the packers' door is 14 1/2 cents per pound as compared with 16 cents in the month of July, while the average retail price of round steak in 26 cities is 31 cents per pound, against 27 cents per pound in July, thus showing that retail prices have increased while wholesale prices have decreased."

"We have a potato harvest of 50 per cent in excess of the crop of last year. The price at the leading points varies from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hundred pounds depending on the section where grown and the cost of getting them to market. The price, which is somewhat higher than at this period last year, is due to a tendency on the part of the producer to hold the potatoes for higher prices than last year despite the greatly increased crop, and to the temporary inability of the railroads to furnish equipment sufficient to move from many sections the quantity available at this time."

Price of Potatoes Should Drop

"The average price of potatoes delivered in the markets has closely followed the price which the producer has received plus the cost of distribution to the market."

"The larger supply of cars and the large harvest warrant lower prices later in the fall."

"Beet sugar prices are being con-

City Faces Sugar Famine; Retailers Get High Prices

Scarcity to Continue Six Weeks—Wholesale Price Is 8.35 Cents a Pound, Retail 10 to 20 Cents—Moskowitz Calls Conference

All that was necessary in order to acquire a pound of sugar in New York yesterday was good standing with a grocer, a readiness to purchase a generous bill of groceries and approximately 15 cents in money.

For the city faces a sugar famine that officials say may continue for six weeks. Refiners and wholesalers practically ceased making deliveries. Retailers, meanwhile, seized the opportunity to collect large profits, although a fixed wholesale price had been established by Food Administrator Hoover.

East Side Stores Lack Sugar

To combat the seemingly inevitable sugar famine, Dr. Henry Moskowitz, city Commissioner of Markets, made a survey of the retail stores in the poorer districts, disclosing the fact that in most cases they are without sugar. Late last night he announced that he had decided to call three conferences of interested business men this afternoon.

They are:

1. Sugar refiners: to learn the quantity of raw material available.
2. Wholesalers: to learn the amount of stock on hand and their facilities for immediate delivery.
3. Retailers: in order to formulate a plan for distribution of any sugar that may be available for immediate consumption.

Dr. Moskowitz's survey, which included fourteen stores in the Greek and Italian districts of Roosevelt, Cherry, Oak and Madison streets, showed that but one store had sugar on hand, while the others had none, and had been without it for weeks. On the lower East Side it was found that one store had been without sugar for three weeks.

Seven investigators sent into different sections of the tenement districts of Manhattan agreed that the small dealer was practically sugarless. The fact that there certainly is a serious sugar shortage, which will require careful consideration by those concerned with food problems, said Dr. Moskowitz.

"Our conferences to-morrow are for the purpose of outlining a policy in dealing with the situation." With the wholesale price fixed definitely at 8.35 cents a pound, minus a slight cash discount, the consumer yesterday was compelled to pay anything from 10 to 20 cents a pound, according to the locality, his readiness to pay and the rapacity of the retailer. Profits at these prices ranged from 25 to more than 150 per cent.

Retailers' Prices Vary

But even at these prices purchasing sugar took on the dignity of a function. Retailers stipulated that they would sell no sugar except to old customers or those who purchased bills of other groceries. One grocer refused to quote a price over the telephone because the inquirer could not

trolled by the manufacturers upon a basis that should make it reach the consumer from 8 to 8 1/2 cents per pound, depending upon the locality. Sugar to confectioners from beet factories is now being restricted, and on states gives no warrant for the advances by retailers to over 9 cents per pound, for this allows fair margin upon the prices paid by them for current sugar. The rise in retail prices of sugar during the last three days in the Eastern states is solely due to the advance in the price of sugar by retail dealers in the face of a short supply, and does not bear any relation to the prices at which these sugars have been purchased.

The price of new Cuban, Porto Rican and Hawaiian harvest in December will maintain the beet level as soon as it is available. The beet level is 14 cents below August prices, and without the concerted action of beet manufacturers and the refiners of cane sugar prices would now be up to 15 cents owing to the short supplies during the next few weeks.

In order to provide equally good substitutes for lard and cooking fats, the Food Administration is arranging for the import of larger supplies of coconut, palm, nut and soy bean oils. This should also affect the prices of soap.

"Since the food administration came into existence, on August 10, a great deal of exertion has been required to remedy food situations growing out of the over-shipment and short supplies of the 1916 harvest."

Childs and Boden to Help Food Saving Campaign

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—To further its campaign for economy in hotels and restaurants the food administration has obtained as voluntary aids Paul H. Boden and William Childs, Jr., of New York.

It was announced to-day that some restaurant owners have complained that they cannot offer suitable substitutes on the proposed "meatless" Tuesdays and "wheatless" Wednesdays, and the

Food Administration is working on this problem.

A list of 3,100 clubs that have dining rooms has been compiled and food economies will be urged on them.

Potato Crop Sets Record

Yield for Year 100,000,000 Bushels Above Normal

The potato department of the food administration announced yesterday that the first war crop of potatoes of 432,000,000 bushels was 100,000,000 bushels in excess of the normal crop. The potato department intends to set to work to persuade people to eat the extra bushels.

"Get behind the potato and push it!" has been adopted as the official yell of the potato department. "The potato," says its official booster, "is healthful, economical and delicious."

Hotel and restaurant men are initiating a movement to abolish the icing on cakes and pastry. It is necessary to do this and take other measures to save sugar, they say. John McE. Bowman, of the Hotel Men's Association, prophesied that the wheatless week and the meatless week were on the way, and only rigid observance of the saving of sugar and meat would postpone the greater privations.

Overcoats Which Have Warm Admirers

MEN who buy custom made suits at \$75 and upwards—and are fussy about them—are among those who wear Weber and Heilbroner overcoats.

Our overcoats at \$40, \$50 and \$60 are of the finest fabrics—tailored by men who regard their business as an art.

Overcoats which will appeal to young men because of their correct fashion—and to their fathers because of quality and price—\$20, \$22.50, \$25, \$28.50 and \$30.

The fabrics selected with discrimination, especially for New York taste—every false note of fashion omitted.

Burberry English overcoats, \$37.50 to \$75.

Officers' Uniforms, \$43 and \$48. Officers' Overcoats, \$50 and \$67.50.

Garfield Expects To End Strike in Soft Coal Mines

Workers' Chief Believes Men Will Respond to Appeal of Patriotism

Wilson as Last Resort

Fuel Administration Will Urge Drastic Plan if Plea to Miners Fails

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Fuel Administrator Garfield and President John P. White of the United Mine Workers expressed confidence to-day that the strike of coal miners in the central competitive field of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Pennsylvania would be settled within a short time.

President White left to-night for his headquarters in Indianapolis, where he will continue his efforts to induce the men to return to work. Despite reports indicating a spread of strike sentiment among the men, Mr. White was optimistic when he left Washington. At the Fuel Administration it was said that he viewed the strike movement as sporadic and believed that the trouble would be adjusted within a few days by an appeal to the patriotism of the men not to permit the nation's coal supply to be diminished.

Pending the outcome of negotiations between President White and the miners, Dr. Garfield would not say what move he contemplated under his threat to the miners yesterday to invoke whatever power was necessary to insure the working of the mines at full capacity.

Should Mr. White's efforts fail, however, it is understood that the Fuel Administration is prepared to lay before President Wilson a drastic plan for making certain an adequate coal supply.

Frank Farrington, president of the Illinois miners' organization, appealed yesterday by Dr. Garfield and President White, telegraphed to-day that he was using his best efforts to induce the miners in Illinois to return to work.

When informed to-day of reports from some points in the Middle West that manufacturers and others were hoarding coal, officials at the Fuel Administration said every effort would be made to prevent hoarding, and that whenever a case was found the coal would be seized and distributed. No official report of hoarding, however, had reached the administration.

Southwest Operators and Miners Seek Settlement

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 18.—Negotiations for settlement of the differences of coal miners of the Southwest fields and coal operators of the Southwest Association were begun to-day. The district presidents of the United Mine Workers of America had deferred the walk-out which was to have taken place to-morrow, after a conference with the operators.

The deferring of the strike of 35,000 miners came after both the operators and representatives of the mine workers agreed to disregard the points of difference which led to the strike order and resume negotiations where they had been broken. Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas Mine Workers; John Wilkinson, president of the Oklahoma division, and D. A. Frampton, president of the Missouri miners, however, declare that they will not agree to the assertion of a "penalty" clause in the contract, a point which led to the strike order.

U. S. Asked to Create Dry Zones Near Coal Mines

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 18.—Initial steps were taken to-day by leading manufacturers of munitions and by coal operators of the Pittsburgh district to have the Federal government create "dry" zones in the vicinity of their plants and mines.

The movement had its inception in an appeal to Washington by the Bessemer Coal & Coke Company, the Superior Coal Company, and the Ford Colliery Company, who claim the operation of their mines has been lowered 2,000 tons of coal a day on account of illegal drinking places which have squatted near the mines.

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Two Machines Do 450 Miles in 6-Day Trip Through Mud

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Invitations have been issued to the Council of National Defence and to members of the Quartermaster Corps, the Aircraft Production Board, the War Industries Board and the Medical and Sanitary Corps.

The trucks, both of the Class B type, designed for a three-ton load, but with capacity for five tons, will be delivered to Brigadier General Chauncey B. Baker by A. W. Copland, chairman of the schedule committee, and in turn will be delivered by General Baker to Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.

Driving over mountains and hills through red clay mud the trucks successfully negotiated their journeys of more than 450 miles each from the two factories at which they were assembled to Washington in less than six days, including the time spent in stop-overs and in local demonstrations. Many cities, including Williamsport and Harrisburg, Penn., welcomed the trucks with parades.

Only Half Day's Supply of Coal In Greater City

Dealers, Predicting Hardship, Say Price Fixing Is Responsible

New York's coal supply dropped perilously near the vanishing point yesterday. One dealer estimated that there was in bunkers throughout the city approximately half the quantity of fuel normally consumed here in a day.

Big hotels, apartment houses and manufacturing plants are depending upon daily coal deliveries. Should these fail for any reason many inhabitants of the five boroughs will shiver in heatless apartments, hotels and homes.

Frank Burns, of the Burns Brothers Coal Company, said his concern was just enough fuel on hand to supply a part of the normal needs of regular customers. An inquiry at the offices of Charles H. Reynolds & Sons, Brooklyn, elicited the reply that deliveries of small orders could not be made in less than four weeks.

Leonard Wallstein, Commissioner of Accounts, who acted last winter as manager of a civic distribution plant that offered coal to the poor for \$8 a ton whenever it could not be purchased at that price elsewhere, is said to be considering a reopening of the city offices. He could not be reached yesterday.

Downtown office buildings which have little space for fuel storage are compelled to accept mixed sizes and grades of coal to keep their furnaces going. The price of \$8.75 a ton, established by Harry A. Garfield, United States Coal Administrator, is being maintained in the city in spite of the imminent famine.

Coal dealers throughout the city declared that a sudden cold snap would entail considerable suffering, particularly among apartment house dwellers.

What makes the situation particularly aggravating from New York's standpoint, said one of the largest coal dealers, is the fact that there is a great quantity of coal along the Atlantic coast, and especially in New Jersey. It is impossible, however, to get it in large quantities to New York.

Coal men assert the entire trouble is due to the fact that the government fixed the price for bituminous coal at the mines. The price, they declare, is too low, and does not permit the bituminous coal miners to make a profit.

In consequence they have stopped mining operations, and those who formerly used bituminous coal have been forced to use anthracite.

All that is needed, these men say, to give instant relief is for the government to fix a price of \$3 a ton at the mines for bituminous coal, at which figure a profit can be made by the bituminous coal producers.

Indiana Miners Heed U. S. Warning: End Strike Today

CLINTON, Ind., Oct. 18.—Two thousand miners of the Clinton field voted to return to work to-morrow at a mass meeting to-day, at which William Mitch, secretary of District No. 11, called attention to the telegram received yesterday from Dr. H. A. Garfield, Fuel Administrator. This message said the powers of the government would be used to keep the mines going if the men persisted in violating contracts.

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Mayor Asks State For Permit to Buy And Sell Food Here

Emergency Demands Action, He Tells State Controller Mitchell

Fears Renewal of Riots

Moskowitz, as Market Bureau Chief, Will Direct City Relief Agency

Mayor Mitchell wrote yesterday to John Mitchell, president of the State Food Commission, asking permission for the city to buy, store and sell food and fuel. The emergency, existing and impending, demanded such action, the Mayor said. He also wrote to the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment urging them to send to Albany the resolution setting forth the necessity, which is required by law.

The newly established Department of Public Markets, of which Henry Moskowitz is the head, will be the municipal food and fuel agency.

Conditions which last year became so acute as to produce rioting on the East Side and inspired parades of protest are likely to be even worse this winter, the Mayor predicts. He relates the efforts he made to obtain passage of the food law long before it was finally adopted. The Legislature, he declares, was "either blind to the approaching crisis or influenced by the pernicious lobby maintained by the food monopolists" and denied his requests.

"Finally, this year," he writes in his letter to the Board of Estimate, "after three years of effort on the part of the city administration and due to the pressure of war conditions and to the impact of public opinion the Legislature enacted a bill which has become statute law and which contains a grant of power sufficient to secure some accomplishment."

Emergency Requires Action

"This new law, known as Chapter 813 of the Laws of 1917, confers power upon the city, with the consent of the State Food Commission, to purchase, store and sell to its citizens food and fuel. In view of the constant rise in prices during the last winter, and in view of their present level, it is clear that an emergency exists sufficient to justify application by the city to the State Food Commission for permission to exercise the power to buy and sell."

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BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

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